

Stoneman Dispatch

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: camp18@suvpac.org Web: www.suvpac.org/camp18.html

Volume 13, No.5, November, 2022

Attention Company!

A message from the Camp Commander

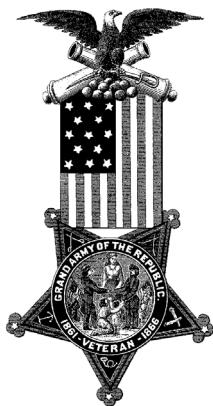
Brothers,

Please plan to join us for our first ever Veteran's Day Ceremony on Friday November 11 at the GAR Circle in the Evergreen Historic Memorial Cemetery beginning at 9 a.m. Brothers John Morris and Rudy Velasco have been working hard to make this a great event to honor all our US Military veterans and we hope you can join us.

In addition to Veteran's Day, we will be honoring our veterans on Saturday December 17th for Wreaths Across America. Our Camp will be participating in this national event by placing wreaths on veteran's graves at Evergreen Cemetery and participating in a short ceremony of remembrance. Our Camp voted to assist in the purchase of wreaths and personal donations are also welcomed to help reach the goal of placing a wreath at every veteran's grave within the cemetery.

To participate in Wreaths Across America, our regularly scheduled December Camp 18 Business Meeting has been moved up one week to Saturday December 10th at 10 a.m. This Camp 18 Business Meeting will be held at Woody's Classic Grill in Grand Terrace. Come and enjoy breakfast before our business meeting and the election and installation of new officers. We will also be presenting awards to some very deserving Camp 18 Brothers for their dedicated service throughout the year.

Continued on page 2, see Remarks,...



*Dedicated to Preserving the Memory
of the Grand Army of the Republic
And the soldiers who Fought to Save the Union 1861 - 1865*

Tentative Camp Calendar

Friday, Nov.11 – Camp 18 Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery, 4414 14th St. Riverside. Start time is 9:00 a.m. Participants, please be on site by 8:00 for walk through.

Saturday, Dec. 3 – 9:00 a.m. Wreaths Across America Ceremony “dry run practice” at Evergreen Cemetery.

Saturday, Dec. 10 – Camp Election meeting, 10:00 a.m. at **Woody's Classic Grill in Grand Terrace, CA.** More information on page 2, see “**Camp Meeting.**”

Saturday, Dec. 17 – 9:00 a.m. 5th Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony with Evergreen Cemetery and Master of Ceremonies Brother John Morris. Camp 18 Participants be on site before 8:00 a.m. Contact Secretary Rudy with questions or concerns.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 – Camp display at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine Open House in Redlands. Open House begins at 11:00 a.m. We will be setting up the display about 8:00 a.m. Very Special event!

Saturday, Feb. 18 – Camp meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Hall in Corona.

March 17 – 18 - SUVCW Department Encampment at the Four Points by Sheraton in Bakersfield. Stand by for updates.

Is it Possible?

There were two Abraham Lincolns, one on each side of the Civil War. The President of the United States and a Confederate, Private Abraham Lincoln of Company F, 1st Virginia Cavalry from Jefferson County. He was reported a deserter in 1864 so the North ended up with both Lincolns.



Remarks continued,...

The restaurant is fun, freeway close, and I know you will enjoy the food and fellowship with your brother members. Please plan on being there to vote and support your new officers for next year.

We are still looking for a Junior Vice-Commander, so please consider volunteering to serve your Camp and contact any Camp Officer if you are interested or have questions about the position.

Finally, please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for their support. It has been an honor to serve as your Camp Commander for the past two years. I have enjoyed working with my fellow Officers and Brothers to further the work of our Camp and the SUVCW. Thank you for all you do!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Brian Stephens

-----More Camp News-----

Camp Meeting - We have a reservation for our December 10th Camp meeting at 10 a.m. for 12 Brothers in the Banquet Room at Woodys Classic Grill in Grand Terrace, CA. The address is 22400 Barton Rd Suite #1 Grand Terrace, California 92313.

The restaurant is a few blocks off the 215 Fwy on Barton Rd at the corner of Canal St. We will have a U.S. Flag in the room and one long table for 12. There are booths near the table so we can handle any overflow.

Exit the 215 Fwy at Barton Rd and head east, the restaurant will be a few blocks down on the left just past the traffic light at Canal St.

Camp Officer needed – Camp 18 is still looking for a volunteer or nomination for Camp Junior Vice Commander. This office does not take too much time and is a fairly simple in principle. On the job training available. Contact the Camp Secretary with questions.

Annual Dues – It is Dues season and dues notices will be in the mail in the next couple of weeks.

At the Sons of Union Veterans National Encampment last August, there was a discussion and vote to raise the National portion of per capita dues by \$10.00 annually, so our usual Camp dues of \$40 will be raised to \$50.00 for 2023. This applies to adult members only.

Wreaths Across America – Plans are coming together for Camp 18's participation in this year's Wreaths ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery scheduled for December 17th. Something we could do, as a Camp, both participants and Brother spectators could meet after the

ceremony and as a Camp 18 group project, place wreaths for the Veterans in a section of the cemetery. We are all invited to attend the ceremony and to also place wreaths.

**Welcome New Brother!**

Camp 18 welcomes new Brother Steve Matthews to the Camp.

Brother Matthews joins the SUVCW and Camp 18 honoring the Civil War service of his 3rd Great Grandfather Ebenezer B.

Matthews, a Private in Company F, 5th Massachusetts Infantry who was honorably discharged on 2 July 1863.

Before serving the Union Army, Ebenezer was a shoe maker,... interesting. Once again, Welcome Brother Matthews.

Huzzah Huzzah Huzzah



Photo above; Steve Matthews (front Center) takes his Initiation/obligation with Camp Chaplain Bill Daley PCC at the October 8th Camp meeting in Corona.

What was the profile of the typical Union and Rebel Soldier?

Civil War soldiers, both Northern and Southern, were typically farmers, unmarried, between the ages of 18 and 29, white, native-born and Protestant.



Veterans Day

Stoneman Camp 18 is set to execute the Camp’s first Veterans Day service on Friday, 11 November at Evergreen cemetery. The Service will begin at 9:00 a.m.

We finally have enough interest from Camp members to fill the different roles needed for the ceremony.

Thanks to Brother John Morris, we have a ceremony script to follow that takes us to the point of Veterans Day.

All are invited, bring a lawn chair and we hope to see you there.

If you enjoy your Freedom, Thank a Vet

On Saturday, 5 November, Camp Jr. Vice Commander John Morris, his daughter Sarah and Brother Steve Matthews met in the morning to place flags at the veterans graves around the G.A.R. Circle at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

Thank you for the help guys!



**General George Stoneman Jr.
Camp 18 Officers**

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Camp Commander, | Brian Stephens |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr, | Matt Crowder |
| Jr. Vice Cmdr, | John Morris |
| Sec/Treas, | Rudy Velasco III |
| Camp Council #1 | Michael Emmett |
| Camp Council #2 | Rudolph Velasco IV |
| Camp Council #3 | Benny White |

Appointed

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Camp Chaplain | Bill Daley PCC |
| Camp Historian | Burt Hogue |
| Camp Guide | Bodie Crowder |
| Camp Guard | Steve Doyle PCC |
| Graves Registration | Michael Emmett |
| Newsletter Editor | Rudy Velasco III |
| Patriotic Instructor | Steve Doyle PCC |
| Eagle Scout &
JROTC Coordinator | Rudy Velasco III |

If you have something of interest that you would like to add to this newsletter, something that our **Brothers** might enjoy like an article, a photo or a Civil War event, contact the Editor, Rudy Velasco for placement. rev03@dc.rr.com



Photo Right;
Sarah Morris
plants American
Flags at the
headstones in the
G.A.R. Circle on
November 5th.
Photo Below;
Brother Steve
Matthews installs a
flag at the G.A.R.
monument.

J. Morris photos



Bill (H.R. 5809) Honoring Marine Lance Corporal Signed into Law

Article supplied by Brother Burt Hogue

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Legislation to name the Norco Post Office in honor of Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui (H.R. 5809) was signed into law by the President.

Lance Corporal Nikoui, a Norco resident, was killed during the August 26, 2021, Kabul terror attack while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. The bill will officially designate the U.S. Post Office located at 1801 Town and Country Drive as the Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui Memorial Post Office.

The bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 12, 2022, and subsequently passed by the U.S. Senate on September 20, 2022.

“Our community is incredibly proud to honor Lance Corporal Nikoui, who in his short time with us displayed remarkable bravery and selflessness,” said Rep. Calvert. “With legislation now signed into law, we know Norco’s Post Office will always pay homage to one of the city’s true heroes. Any time I think about Lance Corporal Nikoui I am mindful of his family, friends, and anyone fortunate enough to know him. His bright soul illuminated so greatly that it continues to shine upon us after his passing. I pray that these modest steps of recognition, in some way, give them comfort in knowing that we will never forget his sacrifice and courage.”



150th Anniversary Celebration at Evergreen Cemetery

The Staff at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside had been planning to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the cemetery’s existence for a while and decided that Saturday evening, October 15th would be the time.

Camp 18 has a great working relationship with the cemetery as the Camp has been performing a Memorial Day service there every year since 2010. We were asked to represent the Union Civil War soldiers interred there and

provide a musket salute to their honor.

Days before the celebration, the weather forecast for Southern California called for heavy rain on the event date.

Hoping for the best, everyone showed up for the celebration at about 5:00 p.m. and stayed dry, the rain held off.

A few facts about the Cemetery;

- 1) Founded in 1872, Evergreen is the final resting place for many of our City’s founders and prominent leaders.
- 2) The cemetery has more than 27,000 local and national souls interred on the site, including over 1,100 veterans who fought in every American conflict from the Mexican War to present.
- 3) The ICE HOUSE or “Receiving Vault” was designed as a holding chamber before burial. It is believed Evergreen’s Ice House came in to use during the Flu Pandemic of 1918.

Continued on page 5, see Evergreen,...



Above from the left; Camp 18 Brothers Rudy Velasco PDC, Camp Commander Brian Stephens and Steve Doyle DSVC provided the musket team for the Evergreen event.

Evergreen continued,....

Event staff, Key speakers and the audience began arriving about 4:30 p.m. and were entertained by the Riverside Concert Jazz band/combo.

Evergreen Historical Board President Etienne Caroline opened the celebration with Welcomes and Introductions. City of Riverside Mayor Patricia Dawson spoke about the success of the maintenance of the older part of the cemetery.

More Staff spoke about the first resident of the cemetery, a young lady who had passed about 1870 and was buried on her family's private land and was reinterred at Evergreen in 1872. Others of the earliest that were interred at Evergreen were Civil War veterans and City Founders.

Before the event began to wind down, the Camp 18 musket team of Rudy Velasco PDC, Camp Commander Brian Stephens and Steve Doyle DSVC fired three musket volleys in honor of the Civil War veterans buried in the Grand Army of the Republic Circle in the cemetery.

About 6:00 p.m. the event came to a close with the good sounds of the Jazz combo and just about that time, the rain that was predicted but held off for the entire afternoon began to pour. It was a nice event right up to and the down pour.



Above; More Camp 18 Brothers attended the Evergreen event; from the left are Brother Gene Justin, Brother John Morris JVC along with Camp Commander Brian Stephens.

Greenbacks First Legal Tender Act

The first year of the Civil War brought a great crisis to the Northern economy. Though around the country citizens used many and various paper currencies issued by banks and redeemable in specie (gold & silver), the federal government was required by law to pay its debts in specie only. The enormous costs of war borne by the government seriously depleted its reserves of gold and the uncertainties of war were causing private citizens to hoard vast amounts of the precious metals. When the dwindling precious-metals reserves of banks in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston caused those institutions to suspend paying out specie to back their notes, the Union was on the verge of a calamitous financial disaster that threatened its ability to continue the war.

“Immediate action is of great importance. The Treasury is nearly empty,” Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase told Congress on February 3, 1862. The country clearly had to revamp its policies or face financial ruin. The solution was first proposed by New York Congressman Elbridge G. Spaulding, who suggested that the government issue its own paper currency. The paper currency would be considered fiat money that was not redeemable in gold or silver but would be legal tender for all public or private debts except import duties and interest due on government bonds, both of which would still be paid in specie. Because the Constitution empowered Congress only “to coin money,” there was much debate about the legality of the proposal, as well as concern that a national paper currency would bring on rampant inflation. “The bill before us is a war measure,” countered Spaulding. These were “extraordinary times and extraordinary measures must be resorted to.”

On February 25, 1862, Congress passed the first Legal Tender Act, which authorized the printing of \$150 million in Treasury notes. The bills were printed on only one side with green ink and soon became known as “greenbacks.” They proved to be universally popular and remarkably sound.

Fascinating Fact: The Value of greenbacks fluctuated with the Union's fortunes in the war. At times they were worth no more than 40 cents in gold, but were more often closer to par.





*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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